

**MECHANISMS FOR DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING IN AN  
INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT***Xushvaqtova Mukarram**Student of the Primary Education Department,**Faculty of Pedagogy, Karshi State University*

**Annotation:** This article explores the development of students' critical thinking skills within the framework of an innovative educational environment. The concept of critical thinking, its importance in modern education, and its impact on the learning process are thoroughly analyzed. The article provides a comprehensive explanation of the innovative learning environment and describes effective methods and tools that foster independent thinking, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving abilities in students. These include question-and-answer techniques, debates, problematic situations, mind mapping, digital tools, and reflection mechanisms. The activating role of the teacher in this process is also emphasized. The article substantiates the importance of applying modern pedagogical approaches in shaping critically thinking individuals.

**Keywords:** innovative education, critical thinking, student engagement, independent thinking, modern pedagogy.

**Introduction**

In today's era, when information technologies, digital tools and global thinking are increasingly gaining priority, the educational process is also undergoing profound changes. Now, not memorizing knowledge, but the skills to deeply understand, analyze and apply it in life are gaining priority. This creates the need for new approaches to education, especially through an innovative educational environment, to form the student as an active participant, researcher and thinker. Critical thinking is not just the process of accepting any information or problem, but also the process of analyzing it, asking questions, evaluating different points of view and drawing reasonable conclusions. This skill helps modern students to actively participate in social life, put forward their own positions and be independent in making decisions. Therefore, this article systematically analyzes the mechanisms, pedagogical tools and methods for forming critical thinking skills in students in an innovative educational environment.

**Main part****1. The concept of critical thinking and its importance**

Critical thinking is a person's ability to think deeply about information and situations, evaluate them analytically, be skeptical, and draw well-founded conclusions. This type of thinking teaches the student to make independent, active, and informed decisions.

Today, one of the most important skills is not just memorizing facts, but also analyzing them, being skeptical, and putting forward new ideas. Critical thinking is necessary for personal success, active citizenship in society, and professional growth.

## 2. What is an innovative learning environment?

An innovative learning environment is: a modern learning environment that is organized on the basis of new technologies, uses interactive and active methods to engage students in learning, allows for free thinking and creativity, has open communication between the teacher and the student, and is focused on the formation of skills. In such an environment, the student is not a passive learner, but an active participant. It is in such conditions that critical thinking can develop.

## 3. Mechanisms for developing critical thinking

The following mechanisms are used to form critical thinking skills in students:

Question-answer technology (Socratic method):

Through constant asking of questions to students, they develop thinking, analysis, and reasoning skills.

Creating problem situations:

Problem situations are presented in the lesson, and students are forced to think to solve them.

Debates and discussions:

Students listen to each other's opinions, express their opinions with evidence, and critically analyze opposing points of view.

Mind maps and graphics:

Teaches how to organize and analyze information. The student learns to visually understand complex ideas.

Portfolio and reflection:

Allows the student to independently assess his knowledge, analyze achievements and shortcomings.

Use of technological tools:

Interactive programs, test platforms, and programs based on artificial intelligence guide the student to independent thinking.

4. The role of the teacher: The role of the teacher in the formation of critical thinking is invaluable. He should teach the student to ask questions, encourage discussion rather than evaluation of answers, and encourage him not to be afraid of wrong opinions.

The teacher should value each student's opinion, create an opportunity for him to give not a "correct answer", but "his own answer". After we have carried out each method, our encouragement to children further strengthens their confidence in tomorrow. Everyone thinks deeply and acts intelligently when performing a task. Critical thinking has a very high impact

on students' activities in communicating with close friends and others. Critical thinking is directly related to the activity of students. Usually students are slow listeners because they believe that the teacher is knowledgeable or that the text reflects his knowledge, and therefore every teacher is responsible for their knowledge. Students' active participation in the learning process, their willingness to take responsibility for their own learning, gives the expected results in critical thinking, helps students to think, express their thoughts and opinions. Students' risk-taking in critical thinking indicates the development of their free thinking skills. Each student's knowledge increases their ability to express their opinion freely in their activities without fear and to apply it in life. In the thinking process, there may be situations when "foreign ideas" are unstructured combinations and advanced concepts. The teacher should explain this to students as a situation in the educational process that requires them to teach using words used in everyday life. Students' active participation in thinking can be highly encouraged without risk, that is, each student's opinion is valued.

A key component of critical thinking is asking questions. It has been found through various methods that teachers can help students develop critical thinking skills by encouraging them to ask questions. The use of open-ended questions that require analysis and evaluation can be encouraged by teachers. Through this, students will gain knowledge in information analysis and evaluation of ideas.

### Conclusion

In today's global development environment, the requirements for the education system are changing radically. Now, not only imparting knowledge, but also forming the student's thinking, educating him as a critical and analytical thinker, has become one of the priority areas of education. In particular, an innovative educational environment creates broad opportunities in this direction. This article deeply analyzes the role of an innovative environment in developing students' critical thinking. Experience shows that relying only on traditional teaching methods cannot adequately form such skills. On the contrary, lessons organized on the basis of interactive, technological, problematic and controversial situations force students to think, ask questions, express opinions with evidence and take a critical approach. Also, the role of the teacher in developing critical thinking is invaluable. He should not only be a source of knowledge, but also be active as a guide, a respectful approach to ideas, and an encourager of students to analyze. Question-and-answer methods, "mind maps", debates, portfolios, reflection, digital technologies and other innovative approaches in education have been recognized as the main tools for developing critical thinking. It is with the help of these methods that a student is formed as an independent thinker, socially active and ready for future professions. Therefore, in the current era, every teacher should strive not only to impart knowledge, but also to teach thinking, and rely on innovative methods that turn a student into an active subject. Critical thinking is one of the most important skills necessary for a successful life in modern society. An innovative educational environment is the most effective basis for the formation of students' critical thinking skills. Through the use of problem situations, questions and answers, debates and technologies in education, independent and analytical thinking of a student is encouraged. Such a student is formed as a conscious, responsible and active person not only at school, but also in life.

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